

WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD NORTH COAST REGION

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

September 2002

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT DIVISION

TMDL Development Unit Activities

[Staff Contact: David Leland]

Klamath Basin TMDLs

Regional Water Board staff introduced the TMDL program for the Klamath River and the various subwatersheds in the Klamath Basin to the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors on October 1, 2002. Siskiyou County lies mostly within the Klamath River watershed.

USGS Monitoring in the Klamath River Basin

Under contract to the Regional Water Board, the USGS monitored seven sites on the Klamath River from the Oregon border to the mouth, three sites on the Shasta River and two sites on the Lower Lost River and Tule Lake starting in June 2002. USGS was expected to end sampling in September but will continue through October in response to the massive Klamath River fish kill. USGS will resume sampling at the same sites next summer.

The data obtained in the USGS sampling efforts will be used in TMDL development. Technical TMDLs for the Lower Lost River/Tule Lake area are due in 2004; for the Shasta River in 2004; and, for the Klamath mainstem in 2005.



USGS Sampling below Iron Gate Dam in September 2002

Upper Lost River Monitoring

The TMDL unit just completed water quality monitoring on the upper Lost River and the streams that drain into the Clear Lake Reservoir, source of the Lost River. The Lost River flows from California's Clear Lake Reservoir north through Oregon and back into California's Tule Lake. The Lost River (including the Clear Lake Reservoir area) is on the state's 303(d) list of impaired waterbodies for high water temperature and excess nutrients. The Region's TMDL staff monitored six sites in the Upper Lost River and Clear Lake Basin, located on the Modoc Plateau along the Oregon border in Modoc County, from early May through October 2002. The area is a high desert environment and is home to the endangered Lost River and shortnose suckers and to redband trout.

The data obtained in the sampling efforts will be used in TMDL development. The technical analysis for the Upper Lost River/Clear Lake area TMDL is due in 2003.



Modoc Plateau and Clear Lake Reservoir from the Blue Mountain Fire Lookout

Salmon River TMDLs

Staff of the TMDL Development Unit made a presentation to Salmon River stakeholders on July 24 on the status and approach for developing the nutrient and temperature TMDLs for the Salmon River. Monitoring of nutrients and physical water quality parameters was conducted at five locations in the Salmon River watershed over two to three consecutive days once per month from June through September. Under contract with the U.S. Forest Service, the TMDL Development Unit conducted continuous temperature monitoring at over 50 locations throughout the Salmon River watershed from June through September, in support of the temperature TMDL. With support from the Salmon River Restoration Council, staff completed shade measurements at most of these temperature monitoring locations. The technical analysis for the nutrient and temperature TMDLs for the Salmon River is to be completed in June 2003.

Scott River TMDLs

Regional Water Board staff introduced the TMDL program to the Siskiyou Resource Conservation District in Etna on October 4, 2002. Staff also have been actively coordinating on data collection efforts with North Coast Watershed Assessment Program (NCWAP) staff.

Shasta River TMDLs

Staff of the TMDL Development Unit met with the Shasta River Resource Conservation District on September 12 and with representatives of Save Our Scott and Shasta Valleys on July 26 to discuss the progress and approach for developing the temperature and dissolved oxygen TMDLs for the Shasta River. Staff received support for the plan to have a TMDL Advisory Group for the Shasta River TMDLs. Under contract with the U.S. Geological Survey, the TMDL Development Unit conducted water quality monitoring in the Shasta River at three monitoring stations once per month from July through September. Additional monitoring in support of the Shasta River TMDLs is planned for this winter. The technical analysis for the Shasta River TMDLs is to be completed in December 2004.

TIMBER HARVEST ACTIVITIES

During the month of September 2002 the Timber Harvest Division received 35 new Timber Harvest Plans (THPs) and four amendments to THPs. Staff participated in First Review meetings for 19 THPs and participated in Second Review meetings for 18 THPs. Fifteen inspections were also conducted during September 2002.

NOTE: This is a snap shot of a working database with data entered as of October 10, 2002.

CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ORDERS

There was one Cleanup and Abatement Order issued during the month of September 2002. Order No. R1-2002-0090 was issued to Walter

Properties, Inc., William Occhipinti, Occhipinti's Incorporated, Atlantic Richfield Company.

CALIFORNIA WATER CODE SECTION 13267 LETTER ORDERS

There was one California Water Code section 13267(b) Letter Order issued during the month of September 2002. The letter was issued to Chuck Butler for THP 1-99-366 SON to ensure erosion control measures are in place by October 1, 2002.

SPILLS, COMPLAINTS, AND INVESTIGATIONS

Fourteen complaints were received during the months of September 2002. No spills were reported during September 2002.

ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL LIABILITY COMPLAINTS/ ORDERS

No Administrative Civil Liability (ACL) Complaints were issued during September 2002.

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK CLEANUP FUND PROGRAM

For the month of September 2002, there has been a total of \$1,244,554 in funds issued to tank owners in Region 1 from the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund. There were three letters of commitment issued during the month of September 2002.

CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 CERTIFICATIONS

Thirteen new applications for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification were received in September 2002. Thirteen 401 Certifications and one Denial Without Prejudice were issued in September 2002.

Information regarding all proposed certifications is available at our Internet web site at:

http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb1/Public_Notices/401certs/notice401.html

PUBLIC FILE REVIEW

From September 1 through September 30, 2002, one written request was made for review of the Regional Water Board's records. In addition, a total of 29 people came into the office and requested file review during the month of September 2002.

STAFF HIRING

There were no new hires during the month of September.

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER REGIONAL WATER BOARD MEETINGS

The Regional Water Board meeting for November is scheduled to be held in Eureka on November 7, 2002. The Regional Water Board meeting for December is scheduled to be held in Eureka on December 5, 2002.

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our web-site at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov>.